The Member next suggested that the Economic Development Board or some similar agency might be instructed to inspect and take note of the extent, population and revenue of every taluk, as also of its most immediate requirements in respect of means of communication. He also requested that the total annual expenditure of the State under communications might be distributed among the several taluks in proportion to their importance.

Dewan's reply.—*In re*: the construction of a cartable road from Chattanad to Parur and Parur to Kuriappalli, there is water communication between these places, and, therefore, the work was considered to be unnecessary.

As regards the opening of a cartable road from Angamali to Parur, this work is being attended to.

The first mile and half of the road from Parur to Varappuzha has already been gravelled, while the rest is reported to be very costly. It is also reported that there is water communication between the two places. I will see what can be done.

In regard to the canal from Cheriapalli to the Parur bund, the matter is still under correspondence between the Department of Public Works and the Land Revenue Department. I have asked the Peishkar to inspect the locality with an officer of the D. P. W. and make a report. That report has not yet been received. When that is received, I will see what can be done.

82. Public works in Travancore with special reference to the Tiruvalla taluk.

Mr. K. M. Mammen Mappillai (Member, Municipal Council, Tiruvalla) began by thanking the Government for appointing an Indian as the Chief Engineer and for taking up the roads opened by the people for departmental maintenance. He was gratified to note that some reduction had been made in the staff of the Department of Public Works of the State as suggested by him at the seventeenth session of the Assembly. He requested the Dewan to see in consultation with the Chief Engineer whether further retrenchments could not be effected without impairing efficiency. The Member next made the following suggestions :—

(1) Works in respect of which a beginning had been made and money spent should be completed soon.

(2) Government should put an end to temporary works.

(3) Payment to contractors should not be delayed and they should not be made to suffer for the irregularities of the officers of the department.

(4) As the preparation of estimates involved delay, works should be sanctioned after calling for a cost report, the detailed estimates being allowed to be submitted in due course later on. The present practice of preparing estimates without any idea as to the cost and time for the execution of the works to which they related should be discontinued.

The Member also invited the attention of the Government to some mistakes in the Malayalam translation of the proceedings of the eighteenth session of the Assembly.

The Member then referred to the following local needs as meriting the attention of the Government:

(1) The market canal, Tiruvalla, should be completed during the current year.

(2) A canal should be opened to connect the Peringarayar with the Pampa river.

(3) The bridges on the Tiruvalla-Mavelikara road should be improved.

(4) The Tondara bridge should be reconstructed and the work should be finished during the current year. Incidentally, the Member wished to know the amount of the outlay incurred by the Government on that bridge so far.

(5) The Varattar bridge should be completed during the current year.

(6) The difficulty experienced in the matter of boat traffic beyond the revenue and means should be removed.

square miles,

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

(7) The Chengannur-Kozhancheri road should be improved.

(8) Certain bridges in the town of Tiruvalla which were in a dilapidated condition should be repaired.

Dewan's reply.—I am sorry for the delay in taking action on the representation made last year regarding the widening of the market canal. I did expect that the Alamturutti bridge would be completed this year, but, while we were attempting to build it, some new piles were found necessary. As works progress, some new difficulties appear, which could not be foreseen. This bridge will be speeded up this year, and we will take up other bridges next year.

In regard to the Chengannur-Aranmula road also, the necessary action will be taken.

In regard to the new cut connecting the Manimalayar and the Peringarayar, a report has just been received. The matter will be looked into.

As regards the bridges in the Tiruvalla town I have asked the D. P. W. to repair them.

In regard to the expenditure on the Tondara bridge from the beginning up to date, we will have to collect information. It is not the practice to answer interpelations in the Assembly. If a Member of the Legislative Council were to ask the question, Government would supply the required information.

In regard to the Tondara and the Varattar bridge works, attempts are being made to complete them as quickly as possible, and I expect them to be completed before the beginning of the next monsoon.

Then you referred to some general matters. As for further retrenchment in the D. P. W. I have no doubt that the Chief Engineer will suggest further retrenchments when, and if, they are possible. As for the preparation of estimates for works before there are any prospects of taking them up for execution, I have for some time past been putting a stop to that practice. These estimates become very old by the time we take up the works for execution and they have to be revised. We are now having reports as to the rough cost of the works in order to decide when and whether their execution can be taken up. It is only subsequently that the detailed estimate is arranged to be prepared. As for delays in the execution of works, delays do occur; sometimes they are avoidable and sometimes they are unavoidable. As for temporary works, we need not have recourse to temporary works at all, if they could be avoided. I am sure that the Chief Engineer will avoid the construction of temporary works as far as possible.

I am very sorry for the mistake in the translation of the proceedings of the Assembly to which you referred. I shall direct the office to avoid such mistakes.

83. Means of communication in North Travancore with special reference to those in the eastern pakuthies of the Changanachery taluk.

Mr. Kunjuvarki Mathew (Member, Changanachery Taluk) began with a comparison of North and South Travancore in respect of means of communication and said that the former, with a population larger than that of the latter and with about double its area, had only 1,000 miles of roads against 1,500 miles in South Travancore, that the entire railway line was at present being monopolised by South Travancore and that the Government were proposing the extension of the Quilon-Trivandrum line to Nagercoil. The most urgent requirements in the matter of railway communication mentioned by the Member were the following:

(*a*) The extension of the Shencottah-Quilon railway line from Kottarakara to Ernaculam. He dilated on the great advantages that would accrue to North Travancore, especially in view of the Cochin Harbour works, if that line was opened, and prayed for the construction of the extension proposed being immediately taken in hand.

(*b*) Construction of a feeder line from the bottom station of the aerial ropeway at Mundakayam, *i. e.*, the foot of the Peermade Hills, to join the main line somewhere in Kottayam or Changanachery. The Member observed that at present all the agricultural products of those tracts were being transported down to Kottayam by means of carts with great inconvenience to the agricultural population and

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly